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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its third special session, 24-25 May 1994

Administrative and programme budget implications of resolution 1994/S-3/1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

INTRODUCTION

1. At its third special session held on 24-26 May 1994 the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1994/S-3/1 on the situation of human rights in Rwanda. The Commission was provided with an oral statement of the administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution with an indication that a written statement would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council when it considers the resolution of the Commission.

A. Requests contained in Commission resolution 1994/S-3/1

2. By paragraph 18 of resolution 1994/S-3/1, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Chairman to appoint a special rapporteur on Rwanda, for an initial period of one year, to investigate at first hand the human rights situation in Rwanda and to receive relevant, credible information on the human rights situation there from Governments, individuals and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including information on root causes and responsibilities for the recent atrocities, on a continuing basis, and to avail himself or herself of the assistance of existing mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights.

3. By paragraph 19, the Commission requested the existing mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, including the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, as well as human rights treaty bodies, where appropriate, to give urgent attention to the situation in Rwanda and to provide, on a continuing basis, their full cooperation, assistance and findings to the Special Rapporteur on Rwanda and to accompany the Special Rapporteur in visiting Rwanda whenever necessary.

4. By paragraph 20, the Commission requested the Special Rapporteur to visit Rwanda forthwith and to report on an urgent basis to the members of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the country, including his or her recommendations for bringing violations and abuses to an end and preventing future violations and abuses, providing a preliminary report no later than four weeks from the adoption of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to make the report of the Special Rapporteur available to the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council.

5. By paragraph 21, the Commission requested the Special Rapporteur to gather and compile systematically information on possible violations of human rights and acts which may constitute breaches of international humanitarian law and crimes against humanity, including acts of genocide in Rwanda, and to make that information available to the Secretary-General.

6. By paragraph 23, the Commission requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to make the necessary arrangements for the Special Rapporteur to be assisted by a team of human rights field officers acting in close cooperation with UNAMIR and other United Nations agencies and programmes operating in Rwanda.

B. Relationship of requests to programme of work

7. The activities referred to above fall under programme 35, "Promotion and protection of human rights", subprogramme 1, "Implementation of international standards, instruments and procedures", of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised (A/47/6/Rev.1).

8. They fall under the following programme component and activities of section 21 (Human Rights) of the programme budget for 1994-1995:

Subprogramme 1. Implementation of international instruments and procedures

Activities: 1. International cooperation

(a) Settlement of disputes, special missions, good offices, fact-finding, emergency and humanitarian relief services, legal services

(i) Assisting special rapporteurs, representatives or designees (thematic and country-oriented) dealing with human rights violations and investigations or fact-finding into reported situations and cases and reporting to the Commission on Human Rights or the General Assembly.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

9. In the period between the adoption of the present resolution and the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights, to be held in February/March 1995, it is anticipated that the Special Rapporteur would undertake six trips to Geneva, each for a period of five working days, to hold consultations at the Centre for Human Rights, to review documentation and other pertinent material received, to meet representatives of Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and to prepare his or her reports.

10. The Special Rapporteur would also undertake four visits to the area (Rwanda and neighbouring countries), each for a duration of 10 days, accompanied by two staff members from the Centre for Human Rights and by two experts to assess the situation in the country itself. In conformity with paragraph 19 of the resolution, the Special Rapporteur may request representatives of thematic mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights to accompany him on such missions.

11. It is estimated that the team of human rights field officers to assist the Special Rapporteur, as requested in paragraph 23 will be composed of six officers who will carry out field missions in Rwanda and in refugee camps located in neighbouring countries, as appropriate. Two locally recruited secretaries would be required to provide clerical support to the field officers. Provisions would also have to be made for miscellaneous and general operating expenses.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

12. The estimated full cost for the above for the period June 1994-February 1995 is itemized as follows:

	1994 $	1995 $
A. TRAVEL OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR		
Six round trips to Geneva (five in 1994, one in 1995) for consultations at the Centre for Human Rights (5 working days each)	19 800	4 000
Four field missions to the area in 1994 (Rwanda/neighbouring countries) of 10 working days each	17 000	
General operating expenses: (estimated at $500 per field mission)	2 000	
Total (A)	38 800	4 000
B. TRAVEL OF STAFF FROM THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS		
Four field missions to the area (Rwanda/neighbouring countries) by two substantive staff accompanying Special Rapporteur (10 working days each)	43 700	
Three missions by one substantive staff to the area (Rwanda/neighbouring countries) to organize and supervise field operation (5 working days each)	13 900	
Total (B)	57 600	
C. TRAVEL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THEMATIC MECHANISMS/EXPERTS		
Four field missions to the area (Rwanda/neighbouring countries) by two representative/experts accompanying Special Rapporteur (10 working days each)	54 100	
Total (C)	54 100	
D. FIELD OPERATION		
General temporary assistance:	414 300	143 900
6 work-months in 1994 and 2 work-months in 1995 for six officers at the P-3 level and two at the GS level		
One round trip to Geneva-Kigali/neighbouring countries of the six field officers in connection with field assignment	21 000	
Miscellaneous	20 000	1 000
Total (D)	455 300	144 900
Grand total	605 800	148 900

13. In addition, it is estimated that $93,800 would be required under section 28 (Staff assessment) to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

E. Potential for absorption

14. No provision has been made in the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 under section 21 (Human rights) to cover the estimated additional requirements of $754,700 related to the activities of the Special Rapporteur on Rwanda. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the cost of $754,700 could be absorbed within the provision under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

F. Indication of additional requirements

15. Accordingly, should the Economic and Social Council approve resolution 1994/S-3/1 of the Commission on Human Rights, it is estimated that additional requirements of $754,700 would arise under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Furthermore, an amount of $93,800 would be required under section 28 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

G. Contingency fund

16. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources available from low-priority areas or modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current biennium.

17. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the implementation of the resolution may have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

H. Summary

18. Should the Economic and Social Council approve resolution 1994/S-3/1, it is estimated that additional requirements of $754,700 would arise under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Furthermore, an amount of $93,800 would be required under section 28 (Staff assessment) to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).